

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7, of which claims 1, 6, and 7 are independent. Claims 1, 6 and 7 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled.

Each of claims 1, 6 and 7 has been amended in the same manner. More specifically, in each case the amendment clarifies that the sheet storage tray assigned to the working operation mode is moved to an output position of the sheet processing apparatus, as opposed to a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus, as previously recited. Applicant respectfully submits that this change is necessary so that the language of each of the independent claims reads directly on the disclosure in the specification.

More specifically, as illustrated in Figure 3, for example, the storage tray (any of elements 407, 408, and 411) is positioned outside the output position at rollers 410 of the sheet processing apparatus. They were not, as previously recited, positioned at a sheet discharge position of the image forming apparatus.

Since the above amendments do not change the salient features of the invention and provide for the claims to be more closely directed to the specification, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant submits that the amendment will not require a substantial additional consideration on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office or require any additional search.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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